

State Advisory Committee (SAC) For the Education of Children with Disabilities

Advising the NH Department of Education per RSA 186-C:3-b

NHDOE, Room 15

4:30pm – 7:00pm

October 7, 2015

Meeting Minutes

Attended: SAC Members

Maureen Tracey (Chair), Bonnie Dunham, (Vice-Chair), Rep. Jack Balcom, Heidi Cloutier, Janet Reed, Lisa Beaudoin, Tom Grinley, Mike Pinard, Sue Marcotte-Jenkins, Karen Rosenberg, Rep Mary Heath, Jean Parsons, Candace Cole-McCrea, Kestrel Cole-McCrea, Jason Henry, Lynda Thistle-Elliott

Guest(s):

Santina Thibedeau, Administrator, Bureau of Special Education, Violetta Lortie, Alan Pardy

4:30 – Welcome, Introductions of SAC Members & Guests

- Maureen began the meeting at approximately 4:34pm
- All attendees introduced themselves and their roles

Nominations

Karen Rosenberg nominated Violetta Lortie who works at the Sununu Youth Center. As this was her first meeting, she will be nominated at the next meeting.

Approval of Minutes

- Approval of September 9, 2015 Retreat Meeting Minutes
 - Bonnie made a motion to approve the minutes, Mary Heath seconded
 - Discussion
 - There was question if they had the minutes before hand. Minutes were sent out before hand it was just missed by a few people.
 - Candace wasn't at the meeting but pleased with the chosen areas of focus.
 - The follow items were brought up for correction
 - Jean Parson was at the meeting.
 - Bonnie is vice-chair not co-chair
 - Lisa Beaudoin name was incorrectly spelled.
 - Acceptance of meeting notes as amended, 12 approved, none opposed, three abstentions. Motion passed.

Public Comment & Announcements

- Alan Pardy requested more information about the meeting with Commissioner Berry on Multi-Tier Systems of Support mentioned in the minutes from the last meeting.
 - The meeting was primarily about SAC wanting to have 100% participation with fidelity. They were encouraged to look at the Circle of Excellence Award criteria. They are going to look for a stakeholder group to look at this. SAC would consider taking the responsibility for the Circle of Excellence Award.
- Nov 4th 2015 NH School Administrators Association is holding a day long Professional Development on the Working with the NH Restraint and Seclusion Law.
- Lisa shared with her superintendent the September 14th, 2015 POLICY STATEMENT ON INCLUSION OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES IN EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS jointly made by U.S Department of Health and Human Services & the U.S. Department of Education. While primarily dealing with preschool it offers a lot of information and guidance for students.
- Bonnie mentioned that on October 5th there was an article in the Fosters Daily Democrat that the Dover School board had approved a new rules for situations when staff may restrain a student.
- Heidi shared several announcements on trainings the IOD is offering including a Nov 18th Lecture by Spencer West; a hiker who uses a wheelchair and hands to make achievements including climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro. Heidi inquired if she should e-mail them or keep sharing them during announcement? She was asked to keep sharing the trainings at least the most interesting for the whole group.
- Candice shared that public housing for Strafford County is using her putting together a multi-agency training on the presentation she shared with SAC a few months ago.
- The NH Children's Behavioral Health Workforce Development Network had a meeting yesterday

Legislative Updates

- New LSRs are being posted. At first they only list the title and primary sponsor. Some bills need more than that information to figure out what they say.
 - Rep. Heath said she would send a list to SAC with the updated LSRs.
- Rep Balcom went over some hearings going on. Most are on bills are left over from last session.
- There was discussion on LSR 2016-2588 which would address the concerns about students with IEP/504 using recording devices are allowed by the IEP. Bill HB 507 which passed last session requires school board approval for all recordings in a classroom. Jean Parson's stated that they were given guidance that federal legislation of accommodations take precedence over this bill and students with IEP/504 are still allowed to record. If passed though the confusion would be removed. Santana stated the Department is working on technical assistance for districts on this change in law.

Old Business: including Selecting Priority Areas and workgroups moving forward.

- Priority Areas voted on at the last meeting
 1. Supporting our most vulnerable children
 - a. Mental health
 - b. Substance abuse
 - c. Absentee parents / unaccompanied youth
 2. Creating a culture of school and community inclusion removing the barriers.
 3. Children, families and schools affected by substance abuse.
- There was discussion on how subcommittee work should be done this year:
 - Many felt they couldn't work on a topic without more knowledge.
 - Priority Area 1 & 3 are very similar and have a lot of overlap.

- Janet proposed we remember the purpose of the committee and think about goal result and work back.
- It was decided that they would work in a large group together and break out into smaller groups as needed as they acquire additional knowledge.
- Rep. Heath suggested SAC brings in experts in the priority areas to give presentations.
- Candance reminded everyone of Tom Grinley's expertise.
- Maureen we will work as a group the next meeting on the unmet needs of students with disabilities relating with mental health.
- Tom will be our speaker.
- Candace asked if a student is an addict aren't they automatically a special education student?
 - If a student is actively using they are excluded from qualifying for special education. If they are in recover they MAY (but not always) qualify, it would depend on if they fell within the specific categories and other qualifications.

Update from the Bureau

- Santana shared information around the Youth Mental Health First Aid Program that is part of the SAMHSA Project AWARE grant. She explained the work of both SAMHSA grants; Project AWARE and Safe Schools/Healthy Students. The Office of Student Wellness manages both grants and is under the Bureau of Special Education. Mary Steady is the Administrator.
 - Maureen shared that she is able to see the work the grants are doing in Laconia; great programs which are already producing positive results.
 - Jean was concerned about what happens at the district level after the grant is no longer available to support these programs?
- The SSIP (State Systemic Improvement Plan) is working on the social and emotional development for preschools; while not directly related it is tied with the work the SAMHSA grants are doing.
- Ralph Tilton has retired.
- The Independent Program Evaluation contract has been approved by Governor and Executive Council: Pingora Consulting LLC. It needed to be a national recognized firm.
 - Bonnie asked if SAC would be involved and Santana didn't know the answer to this question.
- Grade 11 Smarter Balance testing would be replaced with SATs as the NHDOE has been approved for the wavier.

Janet Reed made a motion to adjourn, Karen Rosenberg seconded. All approved.
Meeting adjourned at 7:20pm.

Next meeting ~ Wednesday, November 4, 2015, 4:30pm-7:00pm ~ NHDOE, Room 15